

PLAN FOR SPRING LANDSCAPING NEEDS WITH EARTH FRIENDLY PRODUCTS



Spring is just a whisper away and so is the need to start planning for what you want to do with your crispy brown winter lawn. There are landscaping products available that suit the government's guidance on buying ecycled-content products at work that can also help you be a more earth-conscious consumer at home.

The Environmental Protection Agency provides recommendations for landscaping products to ensure they are environmentally preferable. Most of the product content recommendations are based on post-consumer material, which refers to what is recycled from our homes and offices as waste.

- Items such as 100 percent post consumer paper and wood can be used as mulch, which helps in retaining water by reducing evaporation and has the added benefit of helping combat weed growth.
- Yard trimming leaves, grass clippings and certain food wastes (fruit and vegetables) lend themselves as a nutritious type of compost and scaping, seeding of grass and under trees and shrubs. This allows for not only recycling the material, but also avoids the use of potentially harmful fertilizers since they are natural and not chemically based.
- Look for recycled content plastic posts when buying landscaping supplies are ces.
- Recycled content hoses (60-65 percent post consumer rubber and/or plastic) and soaker hoses (60-70 percent post consumer rubber and/or plastic) can be purchased for watering needs. The material for the hoses is often derived from used tires, discarded cable wires and old traffic cones.

"THERE'S ONE
GOOD THING
ABOUT SNOW -IT MAKE'S YOUR
LAWN LOOK AS
GOOD AS YOUR
NEIGHBOR'S."

OLD SAYING

With ongoing drought conditions, water will once again be at a premium and watering restrictions aren't likely to let up any time soon. Garden soaker hoses are useful in helping you conserve water. These hoses "sweat" out regulated amounts of water to be slowly delivered to the grassroots and prevent water loss due to evaporation. They can also be used effectively above ground for watering trees and shrubs.